



Press Release

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City-Wide Planning Process Begins

WHO: The City of El Paso

WHAT: Multi-Phase City-Wide Planning Process

WHEN: **June 17, 2010 – June 30, 2010**

WHERE: Various locations throughout the City

The City of El Paso has begun a multi-phase planning process to create specific plans for the former Asarco Plant, three future Transit Oriented Development (TOD) sites within the City, and to ultimately update the City's Comprehensive Plan. The planning effort will be combined with previous planning efforts and studies to create a workable plan and roadmap to guide development, policy, and growth decisions. The public is urged to take part in the process.

The City shall host a charrette the week of June 17 - 30, 2010, focusing on the Asarco Plant and surrounding area and three TOD sites at 1) Five Points (the intersection of Piedras and Montana Streets); 2) Remcon Circle (the intersection of Mesa Street and Remcon Circle Drive); 3) Oregon Street Corridor (Oregon Street from Caesar Chavez Memorial Highway to Glory Road). Charrettes are a combination of on-location design studio and old-fashioned town meetings, teaming community stakeholders including residents, businesses, property owners, state and local government representatives, and City administration with a consultant team of city planners, economists, traffic engineers, illustrators, engineers, and architects for a focused two weeks of visioning and planning. The public is encouraged to join the team at its on-site design studio and at specific charrette events. The charrette

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format is designed to ensure that everyone in the community has an in-depth chance to guide and take ownership of the plan.

Charrette events include:

- The *Kick-Off Event*, which will include an introduction to the charrette and an overview of planning principles, will be held Thursday, June 17, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the El Paso Main Public Library Auditorium, 501 N Oregon Street.
- The *Asarco Hands-on Design Session*, which is an opportunity for the community to draw their vision for the former Asarco property with the assistance of facilitators and designers, will be held Saturday, June 19, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Mesita Elementary Cafeteria, 3307 N Stanton Street.
- The *Transit-Oriented Development Hands-On Design Session*, at which participants will work alongside other members of their community to draw their vision for the Transit-Oriented Development sites, will be held Wednesday, June 23, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Memorial Senior Citizen Center Gymnasium, 1800 Byron Street.
- The public may also visit the *Open Design Studio* at 2400 North Oregon Street (behind the McDonald's on Mesa) to talk with the design team and provide input and feedback on the plans from Monday, June 21, to Friday, June 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and from Monday, June 28, to Tuesday, June 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- An *Open House* to provide an opportunity to view the design team's work-to-date and provide feedback will take place Saturday, June 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the studio on 2400 North Oregon Street.
- A *Work-in-Progress Presentation* will present the work completed by the team followed by a question and answer session on Wednesday, June 30, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the El Paso Main Public Library Auditorium, 501 North Oregon Street.



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While the charrette is the centerpiece of the project's public involvement, the development of the plans for the Asarco Plant and TOD sites shall continue into the Fall of 2010 and will feature many opportunities for participation.

The website, www.PlanElPaso.com, will be the public's source of information about the community charrette and design process for the Asarco Plant and Transit Oriented Development (TOD) sites. The planning for the Asarco Plant and TOD sites is the first part of a larger planning process for the City. Two other two-week charrettes shall be scheduled to assist in the creation of a Comprehensive Plan update for the City. The charrettes are scheduled for the Fall of 2010 and Winter of 2011 with specific dates and times to be announced. More information on the Comprehensive Plan process shall be forthcoming.

Dover, Kohl & Partners of Coral Gables, Florida (www.doverkohl.com) is the lead firm of the large multi-disciplinary consultant team leading the City's process, which includes several local firms and many native El Pasoans. The project is funded by local, state, and federal sources with the majority of the funding ultimately from the United States Department of Defense. The U.S. Army's Fort Bliss is anticipated to grow significantly due to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) decisions made in 2005 which will grow the post and its military population within the City of El Paso to 100,000 by 2013. Fort Bliss has been part of El Paso for over 130 years and is one of the nation's largest training installations. The growth of Fort Bliss will be a major component in all planning for the City.



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